

*1/1
Claim 1*

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material comprising:
 - (a) absorbent gelling particles comprising a water-insoluble absorbent hydrogel forming polymer;
 - (b) a polycationic polymer;
 - (c) from about 1 % to about 10% of glue microfibers selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) tackifier modified polymers,
 - ii) pressure sensitive adhesives, and
 - iii) mixtures thereof; and
 - (d) a carrier layer;

wherein the polycationic polymer is bonded to the absorbent gelling particles; and wherein at least a portion of the absorbent gelling particles, deposited onto the carrier layer, are fixed to the surface of the carrier layer and a majority of individual absorbent gelling particles are directly joined to an adjacent absorbent gelling particle by the glue microfibers in the dry state and wherein the glue microfibers are meltblown fibers.
2. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the carrier layer is selected from the group consisting of a woven material and a nonwoven material.
3. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, further comprising cellulose fibers dispersed in the absorbent gelling particles, wherein the cellulose fibers are adhered to the absorbent gelling particles by the glue microfibers.
4. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 3, wherein the glue microfiber is selected from the group consisting of an elastomeric microfiber and a non-elastomeric microfiber.
5. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 4, wherein the elastomeric microfiber is a thermoplastic polymeric meltblown microfiber.
6. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic polymeric meltblown microfiber is an elastomeric Styrene-Isoprene-Styrene block copolymer.



7. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 4, wherein the non-elastomeric microfiber is selected from the group consisting water-soluble microfiber and water-insoluble microfiber.
8. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 7, wherein the water-soluble microfiber is selected from the group consisting of polyethyloxazoline, polyvinylpyrrolidone, ethylenevinylacetate copolymer glue and mixtures thereof.
9. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the polycationic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamines, polyimines, and mixtures thereof.
10. (Currently Amended) The absorbent material of claim 9 wherein the polyamine is [selcted] selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) polymers having primary amine groups;
 - (b) polymers having secondary amine groups; and
 - (c) polymers having tertiary amine groups.
11. (Previously Amended) The absorbent material of Claim 10, wherein the primary amine is selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylamine, a polyallylamine and mixtures thereof.
12. (Previously Amended) The absorbent material of Claim 10, wherein the secondary amine is a polyethyleneamine.
13. (Previously Amended) The absorbent material of Claim 10, wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of a poly N, N-dimethylalkyl amine, a poly-N-alkylamine, and mixtures thereof.
14. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 9, wherein the polyimine is selected from the group consisting of a polyethyleneimine, modified polyethyleneimines crosslinked with epihalohydrine, polyamidoamine grafted with ethyleneimine and mixtures thereof.
15. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent gelling particles have an average particle size in the range of from about 10 μm to about 1000 μm .

Cancelled

16. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the polycationic polymer chemically crosslinks to the water-insoluble absorbent hydrogel-forming polymer of absorbent gelling particles.
17. (Currently Amended) The absorbent material of [claim] Claim 1, wherein the absorbent material comprises from about 50% to about 90% of the absorbent gelling particle, from about 0.1% to about 10% of the polycationic polymer; and from about 5% to about 50% of the carrier layer by weight.
18. (Original) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the polycationic polymer have a molecular weight of at least about 70,000.
19. (Original) An absorbent article comprising:
 - (a) a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - (b) a liquid impervious backsheet; and
 - (c) an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein the absorbent core comprises the absorbent material of Claim 1.

Claims 20–38 (Withdrawn)

39. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent material of Claim 1.
40. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 39, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper.
41. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 39, wherein the absorbent article is a catamenial product.